

Schell, as best illustrated in Figure 6, discloses a molded plastic housing having a front terminating face and a rear terminating face, and a plurality of terminal-receiving passages extending therebetween. However, as clearly illustrated in Figure 6 of Schell, the walls of the terminal-receiving passageways are not of uniform thickness between the faces. The bottom wall of the longitudinal member (27), which abuts with the PC board (16), is not of uniform thickness between the front mating face and the rear terminating face. Rather, the bottom wall has one thickness which sits atop the PC board (16) and another, increased thickness, which abuts against the side of the PC board (16).

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Schell does not disclose wall means being of generally uniform thickness between the faces along the length of the elongated body portion as specified in independent claims 1 and 10. As such, Schell does not anticipate the electrical connector recited in independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 and 17 that ultimately depend on claim 1. Schell also does not anticipate the electrical connector housing recited in independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11-16 that ultimately depend on claim 10.

With further regard to claims 3, 12 and 14, Applicant has amended claims 3, 12 and 14 to clarify that the width of the end portions is greater than the width of the elongated body portion, with the widths being defined by a dimension which is transverse to the terminal-receiving passages. Schell does not disclose such a structure. Conversely, as illustrated in Figure 4 of Schell, the width (which would be defined by the "Z" axis in Figure 4) of the elongated body portion (27) would be equal to the width of the end portions (32, 33).

Thus, Schell does not disclose the limitations of claims 3, 12 and 14 and, therefore, does not anticipate the electrical connector defined in claim 3, or the electrical connector housing defined in claims 12 and 14.

With regard to claims 4 and 15-16, according to the Examiner's characterization of Schell, the end portions are identified by reference numerals 32 and 33, while the elongated body portion is referenced by reference numeral 27. If this is accurate, then neither of the end portions (32, 33) includes the power section (22) of the connector (10), but rather the elongated body portion (27) includes the power section (22) of the connector (10), as well as the data section (23), as is clearly illustrated in Figure 4.

Thus, Schell does not disclose the limitations of claims 4 and 15-16 and, therefore, does not anticipate the electrical connector defined in claim 4, or the electrical connector housing defined in claims 15 and 16.

With regard to claims 6, 13 and 17, Applicant initially notes that claim 6 has been amended and replaced with new claim 18. The purpose for this was that the amendment made to claim 6 in "Amendment 'B'" did not take into account the amendment made to claim 6 in "Amendment 'A'". Thus, in order to avoid any confusion regarding the amendments made to claim 6, Applicant has canceled claim 6 and replaced it with claim 18. Applicant has thus amended claims 7 and 8 to be dependent from claim 18 rather than claim 6. Therefore, in response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 6, Applicant will address same as if the Examiner had rejected claim 18.

Applicant further notes that claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice and, therefore, considers this rejection moot.

According to claims 13 and 18, the width of the end portions is greater than the width of the elongated body portion, with the widths being defined by a dimension which is transverse to the terminal-receiving passages. Schell does not disclose such a structure. Conversely, as illustrated in Figure 4 of Schell, the width (which would be defined by the "Z" axis in Figure 4) of the elongated body portion (27) would be equal to the width of the end portions (32, 33).

As such, Schell does not anticipate the electrical connector recited in independent claim 18 and dependent claims 7-9 that ultimately depend on claim 18. Schell also does not disclose the limitations of claim 13 and, therefore, does not anticipate the electrical connector housing defined in claim 13.

With regard to claim 7, Schell, as best illustrated in Figure 6, discloses a molded plastic housing having a front terminating face and a rear terminating face, and a plurality of terminal-receiving passages extending therebetween. However, as clearly illustrated in Figure 6 of Schell, the walls of the terminal-receiving passageways are not of uniform thickness between the faces. The bottom wall of the longitudinal member (27), which abuts with the PC board (16), is not of uniform thickness between the front mating face and the rear terminating face. Rather, the bottom wall has one thickness which sits atop the PC board (16) and another, increased thickness, which abuts against the side of the PC board (16).

Thus, Schell also does not disclose the limitations of claim 7 and, therefore, does not anticipate the electrical connector defined in claim 7.

With regard to claim 8, according to the Examiner's characterization of Schell, the end portions are identified by reference numerals 32 and 33, while the elongated body portion is referenced by reference numeral 27. If this is accurate, then neither of the end portions (32, 33) includes the power section (22) of the connector (10), but rather the elongated body portion (27) includes the power section (22) of the connector (10), as well as the data section (23), as is clearly illustrated in Figure 4.

Thus, Schell does not disclose the limitations of claim 8 and, therefore, does not anticipate the electrical connector defined in claim 8.

Applicant has also added new dependent claims 19 and 20. Applicant is of the opinion that these claims are allowable as they are dependent upon claims 1 and 10, respectively, which Applicant contends are in condition for allowance. Applicant further contends that these claims are allowable in view of Schell because they require the limitation of a plurality of terminal-receiving passages defined by wall means extending through said elongated body portion from said mating face to said terminating face. Schell does not disclose such a structure.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has repeatedly stated that the elongated body portion (27) has a front mating face, which is the part from which 30 and 31 protrude, and a rear terminating face, which is the part of 27 where 20 is mounted. Applicant, though does not agree with this characterization of Schell.

According to Schell, at Col. 4, line 67 to Col. 5, line 2, "The housing 26 comprises a longitudinal member 27 having a first tongue 30 and a second tongue 31." Thus, the first tongue 30 and the second tongue 31 are a part of the longitudinal member 27 such that the front mating face is not the part from which 30 and 31 protrude, but rather should be defined as the ends of 30 and 31, opposite from where they are integrally formed with 27.

Therefore, Schell does not disclose or suggest the limitations of claims 19 and 20. Claims 19 and 20 require that the terminal-receiving passageways extend through the elongated body portion from the front mating face to the rear terminating face. But, as best illustrated in Figure 6, the terminal-receiving passageways of Schell do not extend from the front mating face, but rather extend from a

position proximate to the front mating face because of upper surface 30b and lower surface 30c.

Thus, Applicant contends that newly added claims 19 and 20 are not anticipated by nor obvious in view of Schell. Applicant therefore respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 19 and 20.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the rewritten claims and in light of the above remarks, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version of Amended Claims Showing the Changes Made

3. (Once Amended) The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said molded plastic housing includes enlarged end portions at opposite ends of said elongated body portion, the body portion having a predetermined width, and each said end portion having a predetermined width which is greater than the width of the body portion, said width of said elongated body portion and said width of each said end portion being defined by a dimension which is transverse to said terminal-receiving passages.
7. (Once Amended) The electrical connector of claim [6] 18 wherein said passages are at least in part defined by outside walls of the elongated body portion, the walls being of generally uniform thickness throughout.
8. (Once Amended) The electrical connector of claim [6] 18 wherein said connector is a combination connector with said elongated body portion including a data section of the connector and at least one of said end portions including a power section of the connector.
12. (Once Amended) The electrical connector housing of claim 10, wherein the housing includes enlarged end portions at opposite ends of said elongated body portion, the body portion [being of a generally uniform] having a predetermined width, and each said end portion having a predetermined width which is greater than the width of the body portion, said width of said elongated body portion and said width of each said end portion being defined by a dimension which is transverse to said terminal-receiving passages [and further being narrower than the end portions].
- 14 (Once Amended) The electrical connector housing of claim 13, wherein the molded plastic housing includes enlarged end portions at opposite ends of said elongated body portion, the body

portion [being of a generally uniform] having a predetermined width, and each said end portion having a predetermined width which is greater than the width of the body portion, said width of said elongated body portion and said width of each said end portion being defined by a dimension which is transverse to said terminal-receiving passages [and further being narrower than the end portions].